



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Population: Question on Grandparents as Caregivers (P-19)

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT GRANDPARENTS AS CAREGIVERS

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) uses these data to distinguish households in which a grandparent has primary responsibility for a child or children.
- HHS also uses these data as one of the measures that will be used for the High Performance Bonus awards program under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.
- Daycare centers and other businesses use these data to market products and services.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ABOUT GRANDPARENTS AS CAREGIVERS

- Social Security Act
- Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Welfare Reform 1996)
- American Dream Downpayment Act
- Living Equitably: Grandparents Aiding Children and Youth Act

QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

19 a. Does this person have any of his/her own grandchildren under the age of 18 living in this house or apartment?

☐ Yes

☐ No → SKIP to question 20

b. Is this grandparent currently responsible for most of the basic needs of any grandchild(ren) under the age of 18 who live(s) in this house or apartment?

☐ Yes

☐ No → SKIP to question 20

c. How long has this grandparent been responsible for the(se) grandchild(ren)? If the grandparent is financially responsible for more than one grandchild, answer the question for the grandchild for whom the grandparent has been responsible for the longest period of time.

☐ Less than 6 months

☐ 6 to 11 months

☐ 1 or 2 years

☐ 3 or 4 years

☐ 5 or more years

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

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Helping You Make Informed Decisions



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HISTORY OF THE GRANDPARENTS AS CAREGIVERS QUESTIONS

- The grandparents as caregivers question was first asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The aim of these questions is to distinguish between households in which a grandparent temporarily provides a home for a grandchild for a few weeks or months and households in which a grandparent provides a home for a grandchild on a more permanent basis and serves as the primary caregiver for the grandchild. These questions identify both short- and long-term arrangements for minor grandchildren. Since the legislation specifies “providing a home” for the grandchild, these questions determine if the grandparent has the primary responsibility for the basic needs of the grandchild. Situations in which a grandparent participated in childcare while the child was still under the parent’s care should not be included.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau’s Web site at:

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

1-888-456-7215

<cmo.acs@census.gov>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

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